

Appl. No. : 09/777,420
Filed : February 6, 2001

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 14 has been amended.

Claim 24 has been canceled.

1. (Previously Amended) A reel housing configured to enclose a rotatable reel drum, said housing having an access panel having an exterior surface, said access panel having a closed position in which said access panel does not permit a human hand to access an interior of said housing, and an open position in which said access panel permits a human hand to access said interior of said housing, said exterior surface of said access panel having facial indicia to resemble one of an animal, a human, a human-like character, and an alien creature, said housing having an aperture sized to closely surround spoolable linear material extending through said aperture, so that the linear material can be spooled onto and unspooled from the reel drum while said housing encloses the reel drum, wherein said aperture is located within said facial indicia.

2. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 1, wherein said access panel is removable from the remainder of said housing.

3. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 1, wherein said access panel is hingedly attached to the remainder of said housing.

4. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 1, wherein said facial indicia includes one or more of (i) a pair of eyes, (ii) a nose or beak, and (iii) a mouth.

5. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 1, wherein said facial indicia are three dimensional in form.

6. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 5, said facial indicia comprising elements protruding outward from said access panel.

7. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 5, said facial indicia comprising indentations in said exterior surface of said access panel.

8. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 1, wherein said housing encloses a rotatable reel drum.

9. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 1, wherein said facial indicia resemble the appearance of an insect's face.

10. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 9, wherein said facial indicia resemble the appearance of a ladybug's face.

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11. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 1, wherein said facial indicia resemble the appearance of an aquatic animal's face.

12. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 11, wherein said facial indicia resemble the appearance of a frog's face.

13. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 11, wherein said facial indicia resemble the appearance of a duck's face.

14. (Amended) A reel housing comprising a housing body configured to enclose a rotatable reel drum as linear material is spooled onto or unspooled from the drum, said housing body having an aperture through which ~~these~~ the linear material is spooled or unspooled and a removable access panel having an exterior surface, wherein removal of said access panel allows access to an interior of said housing body, said exterior surface of said access panel being decorated with three dimensional facial indicia including one or more of (i) a pair of eyes, (ii) a nose or beak, and (iii) a mouth, wherein said aperture is located within said facial indicia.

15. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 14, said facial indicia comprising elements protruding outward from said access panel.

16. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 14 said facial indicia comprising indentations in said exterior surface of said access panel.

17. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 14, said facial indicia resembling the face of a character.

18. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 14, said facial indicia resembling the face of an animal.

19. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 18, wherein said facial indicia resemble one of a ladybug's face, a frog's face, and a duck's face.

20. (Original) The reel housing of Claim 14, wherein said housing body encloses a rotatable reel drum.

21. (Previously Amended) A reel housing configured to enclose a rotatable reel drum, said housing comprising a housing body and a facial indicia element configured to be selectively attached and detached from said housing body, said facial indicia element having an exterior surface decorated with facial indicia to resemble one of an animal, a human, a human-like character, and an alien creature, the housing having an aperture sized to closely receive

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spoolable linear material extending through said aperture, wherein said aperture is located within said facial indicia.

22. (Previously Added) The reel housing of Claim 21, wherein the aperture is within said facial indicia element.

23. (Previously Added) The reel housing of Claim 21, wherein the facial indicia element comprises an access panel having an open position in which said access panel permits a human hand to access said reel drum, and a closed position in which said access panel prevents a human hand from accessing said reel drum.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Amended) A reel comprising a rotatable reel drum and a housing enclosing the reel drum, wherein the housing comprises a housing body and a facial indicia element configured to be selectively attached and detached from the housing body, the housing having an aperture sized to closely receive spoolable linear material extending through the aperture, the facial indicia element having an exterior surface decorated with facial indicia to resemble one of an animal, a human, a human-like character, and an alien creature, wherein said aperture is located within said facial indicia.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Added) The reel of Claim 25, wherein the housing is generally spherical.

28. (Previously Added) The reel of Claim 25, wherein the facial indicia element comprises an access panel having an open position in which said access panel permits a human hand to access said reel drum, and a closed position in which said access panel prevents a human hand from accessing said reel drum.